



MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY
Friday, February 3, 2017 @ 11:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m.

Committee Members

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair

Councilmember Patricia Spitzley- arrived at 11:53 a.m.

Councilmember Jody Washington- arrived at 11:45 a.m.

No quorum at the start of the meeting.

Others Present

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Jim Bale, AFLCIO

Stacey Locke, Peckham

Brendan Waddell, Assistant City Attorney

Dominic Cochran, City TV

Tammy Lemmer, TCOA

Guillermo Lopez

Presentation

City TV

Councilmember Wood explained to Mr. Cochran what the Committee had variety of presentations over the last years, and due to the amount of information the Committee felt they would be of interest to the public via the CityTV channel. Mr. Cochran was given the recently adopted report from this Committee, and asked if this concept was possible.

Mr. Cochran voiced his interest in offering the program options which would put the information on the website, youtube, and live pod casts. With podcasts it would offer an in station setting round table where as the presentation and questions are going on the production crew will be performing live edits, and it will be uploaded immediately after it is complete. The other option would be onsite stand-alone shows which would require a host or presenter to speak, mediate and direct the camera crew on the presentation. That option could take 2-3 weeks to finalize since it is not live edits. Ms. Lemmer with TCOA and Ms. Locke with Peckham were both interested. Mr. Cochran then suggested the group and Committee created a theme/title for the series with the topics so the program could run in cycle.

Councilmember Wood stated this group would come up with a logo, theme, and list of programs and decide on how often they wish to have them put out. Ms. Locke asked if CityTV would go to advocacy events. Mr. Cochran confirmed they are already at those events, but are not a news crews. Their role is usually to document the event for future promotion of the event in the next years.

The group determined ones of interest to consider in the beginning would be Heather Boyer with domestic abuse, Todd Heywood on his presentation of HIV, and Iman from the Islamic Center of East Lansing.

The theme was confirmed as "The City of Lansing City Council Ad Hoc on Diversity", and they will work on a title to the series. Councilmember Washington suggested the first show to be a "kick-off" to the series, possibly speaking on the human rights ordinance, welcoming city, and use that as the opportunity to say "hear is what you will be seeing in our future shows". Mr. Cochran was encouraged with the show for a podcast with up to 6-8 people. Councilmember Washington suggested the three members of the Committee, Mr. Smiertka and Dr. Joan Jackson Johnson.

Councilmember Wood encouraged Ms. Lemmer to reach out to Mr. Cochran now to coordinate her show for her need on volunteers, and Councilmember Wood would contact Todd Heywood, and the Iman for podcasts.

Minutes

January 6, 2017 minutes were placed on file

Discussion

Councilmember Wood informed the attendees that Council President Spitzley recently re-established the Ad Hoc Committee until 12/31/2017. The items outlined on the agenda are the charge of the Committee work to communicate information to foster diversity to all City Departments and organizations. Also to create a template review any ordinance or policies changes as to how these changes will affect our diverse population and what accommodations may need to made for a particular population. This could be part of the performance goal for the Departments as part of the budget.

Councilmember Spitzley noted that diversity is not in hiring quotas, it is recognizing we are a diverse community and respond to it and keep in mind in our practices and Departments. Mr. Lopez asked if the HR Department could provide data on each Department for race and gender. Councilmember Wood acknowledged she had asked before and based on a referendum by the State was told that is not data we could not ask, but with a different City Attorney we could attend to request the information again. Mr. Waddell was asked to inquire on what can be gathered and report back at the next meeting.

Councilmembers Spitzley and Washington stepped away at 12:10 p.m.

Councilmember Wood added that with the City recently doing more hiring, the Committee needs to see where things are going with the diverse hiring.

Future Meetings

After discussion with the attendees and the Committee members, it was decided to return to the 2016 schedule of meeting twice a month, the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. During those

meetings they plan to look at policies, ordinances and recommendations to all City Departments "these are the questions that should be on your mind."

Councilmembers Spitzley and Washington returned at 12:16 p.m.

Mr. Lopez asked the Committee to consider speaking to Title 7 funding; Councilmember Washington added diversity should be considered when working on sidewalk projects.

Councilmember Washington asked about a recent request she was informed was submitted to the City for Community Funding by Lansing for Cesar Chavez. Council Staff stated it had been submitted to the Finance Department and they should have received it already but if not they would by the end of the week.

Council Staff was asked to reach out to MSU Law clinic again to attempt the coordination of their attendance at a meeting on 2/24/2017.

Councilmember Wood also noted that at the next meeting Law will report back on if the Committee can request HR documents on the statistics of diverse hiring of City employees.

Updates

Ms. Locke stated that Peckham is coordinating class room training on the rights of immigrants. This information can also be provided to this group. Councilmember Spitzley suggested that since this Committee is a government entity the City Attorney office should look at what can be done and be cautious. Being cautious is not disapproval of the offer but responsible, stated Councilmember Washington.

Potential names suggested for the earlier discussion on the series of programs City TV will run were:

Recognizing Lansing
Eye on Lansing
Know your Neighbor

Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:36 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Approved March 10, 2017